

## SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

**SB 611 By Senator Dorsey****KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE**

SPECIAL DISTRICTS. Provides relative to the River Park Development District. (gov sig)

**SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL**

1. Makes technical changes regarding the initial terms of appointed board members. Adds provisions that the executive director of the Downtown Development District shall serve during his term of office and that his designee serve at his pleasure.
2. In provisions that require that at least one member of the board own property in the district or be a designee of a private entity that owns property in the district, provides for a "representative" of such an entity rather than a "designee".
3. Adds provision that no portion of any state sales taxes made directly available to the district pursuant to an agreement with the state shall be used by the district to pay the costs of constructing or operating any privately-owned hotel located within the district without the consent of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, or its successor.
4. Technical amendments.

**DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE**

Dorsey

SB No. 611

Proposed law creates the River Park Development District in the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge, as a political subdivision of the state. Provides for the boundaries of the district.

Proposed law provides that the district's purpose is to provide for cooperative economic and community development among the district, the city-parish, the state, and the owners of the property in the district, in order to assist in the redevelopment of the property within the district.

Proposed law provides that the district shall be governed by a board of commissioners appointed as follows:

- (1) Two members appointed by the mayor-president.
- (2) One member appointed by the state representative whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (3) One member appointed by the state senator whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (4) The executive director of the Downtown Development District or his designee.

Proposed law provides that appointed members serve five-year terms after the initial staggered terms. Provides that the executive director of the Downtown Development District shall serve during his term of office. Any designee of the executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the director. Provides with respect to officers and meetings of the board.

Proposed law provides that the domicile of the board shall be established by the board at a location within the district. Provides the general rights and powers of the district and its board of commissioners shall include the following:

- (1) To sue and to be sued.
- (2) To adopt and use a corporate seal.
- (3) To acquire by gift, grant, purchase, or otherwise all property, including rights of way; to hold and use any franchise or property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible, or any interest therein, necessary or desirable for carrying out the objects and purposes of the district, including but not limited to the establishment, maintenance, and operation of industrial parks, ports, harbors, and terminals.
- (4) To enter into contracts for the purchase, acquisition, construction, and improvement of works and facilities.
- (5) To incur debt and to issue revenue bonds, special assessment bonds, certificates, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness and to levy and cause to be collected certain taxes.
- (6) To regulate the imposition of fees and rentals charged by the district for its facilities and services rendered by it.
- (7) To borrow money and pledge all or part of its revenues, leases, rents, or other advantages as security for such loans.
- (8) To appoint officers, agents, and employees, prescribe their duties, and fix their compensation.
- (9) To exercise any and all of the powers granted to an economic development district, including but not limited to the powers of tax increment financing, and the power to levy taxes within the district.
- (10) To exercise any and all of the powers granted to a community development district, including but not limited to the power to levy special assessments on property within the district.

Proposed law authorizes the district to exceed the limit for sales taxes set forth in the constitution. Provides that taxes and assessments to be levied by the district shall be levied only after the board has adopted a resolution and given notice at least 14 days prior to the public meeting of the board to hear any objections to the proposed taxes or assessments. Provides that such taxes or assessments may be levied only after approval of the electors voting at a special election; however, if there are no qualified electors in the district, no election shall be required, but the tax shall not become effective unless and until approved by the city-parish council.

Proposed law authorizes the district to create subdistricts as political subdivisions of the state to be governed by the board of the district. Grants subdistricts the same powers as the district.

Proposed law authorizes the district to issue bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness and other obligations or evidences of indebtedness. Provides that obligations shall be authorized, issued, and sold by a resolution of the board in such manner and from time to time as determined by the district, subject to approval of the State Bond Commission.

Proposed law provides that for 30 days after the date of publication of the resolution authorizing the bonds, any person in interest may contest the legality of such. After 30 days, no one shall have any right to contest the legality of the resolution.

Proposed law provides that the district will dissolve upon the later of one year after the date on which all loans, bonds, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness of the district are paid in full or 50 years from the effective date of proposed law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 33:9038.64)

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